THE STATE OF BLACK GAY AMERICA, INC. PROUDLY PRESENTS

9.1.12

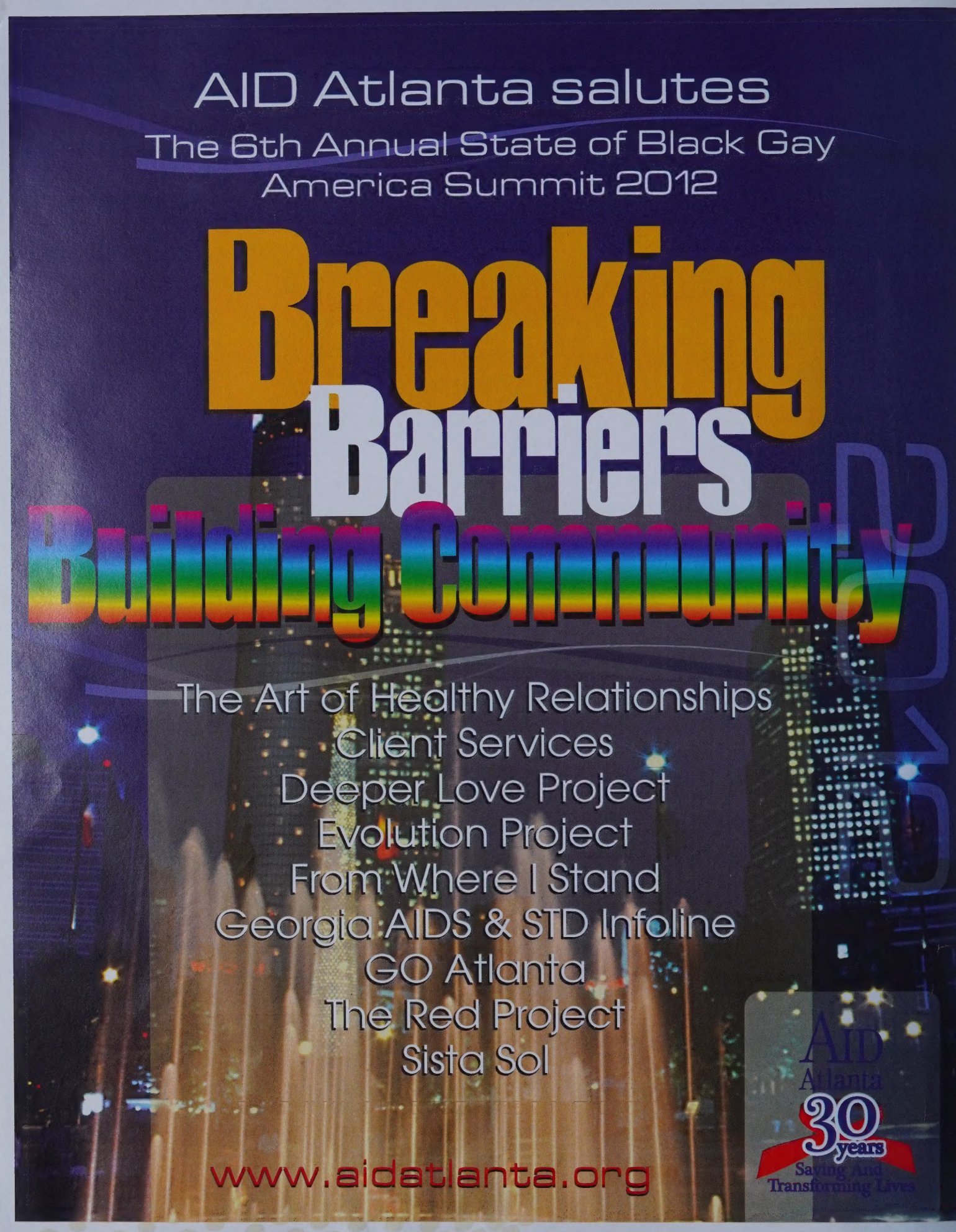
6th Annual SBGA Summit 2012

Embracing Our Collective Power to influence change

The Melia Atlanta Hotel & Resorts
590 W. Peachtree St.
Atlanta, GA 30308

11:00AM - 4:00PM

WWW.SBGASUMMIT.ORG


AID Atlanta salutes
The 6th Annual State of Black Gay America Summit 2012
Breaking Barriers
Building Community
The Art of Healthy Relationships
Client Services
Deeper Love Project
Evolution Project
From Where I Stand
Georgia AIDS & STD Infoline
GO Atlanta
The Red Project
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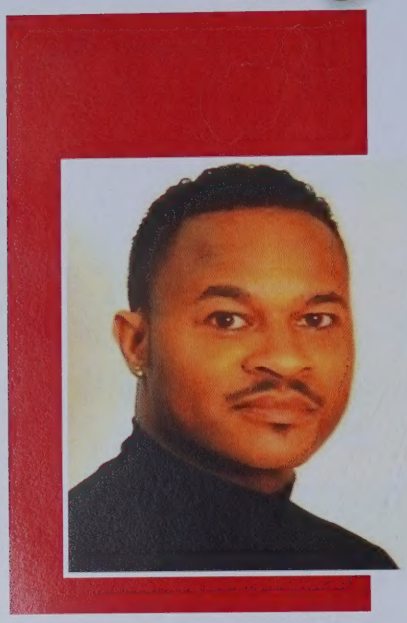
www.aidatlanta.org
AID Atlanta
30 years
Saving And Transforming Lives

The purpose of the State of Black Gay America (SBGA) Summit is to provide a forum for local and national leaders to meet with members of the African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in an effort to share information, stimulate discussion, and identify possible solutions to economic, political, and health issues specific to the African-American LGBT community.



Welcome from Gregory Allen, MBA

Founder & Chairman, SBGA Summit
President/CEO, Xtreme Entertainment, Inc.

Greetings To All SBGA Summit Attendees:

On behalf of the SBGA Summit Planning Committee, I would like to welcome all SBGA Summit attendees to the 6th Annual State of Black Gay America (SBGA) Summit and thank all sponsors for the continued support of the SBGA Summit. Without the support and commitment of our sponsors, we would not be able to provide the vital information that is presented each year at this event.

The SBGA Summit affords us an opportunity to celebrate the lives and many achievements of LGBT people of color as well as discuss the issues and challenges that affect and impact our community. As I reflect on the tremendous strides we have made as a community, I am elated to serve as one of the many Social Activists fighting for the rights of all LGBT people. While many strides continue to be made, I recognize that there is still much work to be done to eradicate both homophobia and social injustice.

This year's Theme, "Embracing Our Collective Power To Influence Change", is a powerful theme that each of us should totally embrace. As a collective body and community, we have incredible power that is sometimes unrealized and often underestimated. My hope and prayer is that our collective power as a people will be both realized and enacted in the fight for equality. As we discuss the issues and challenges that impact our community during this year's SBGA Summit, I hope that each of us challenges ourselves personally as well as challenge those in our social circles and community to take some positive action that brings about change to benefit our community.

2012 is a pivotal year for this country. As we prepare for the 2012 Presidential Election, we must consider all of the advancements made by President Obama and his administration. President Obama has placed his political career and capital on the line to advocate for the LGBT Community. As a community, we have a responsibility to reward his allegiance to the LGBT community by ensuring the great progress made over the past three years is not undone. We must ensure that we do not digress as a nation and allow the radical non-progressive movement to turn back the clock of equality. Please encourage everyone that you know to exercise their right to vote and not allow anyone and/or anything to hinder them from casting their vote.

Again, welcome you to the 6th Annual State of Black Gay America (SBGA) Summit and thank you for your continued support. ıed and be enlightened.

Gregory Allen, MBA
Founder & Chairman, SBGA Summit
President/CEO, Xtreme Entertainment, Inc.

Welcome from R. Darlene Hudson, MSW

Co-Chair, SBGA Summit

I am delighted to welcome the community to the 6th year of the State of Black Gay America (SBGA) Summit! An event where we not only discuss the challenges facing the Black LGBTQ community but we are solution focused, and each year recommit ourselves to stay informed and stay engaged.

The 2012 Summit theme "Embracing Our Collective Power to Influence Change" reminds us that as individuals changing our society can seem hopeless when we look at the magnitude of its problems today. Too many people who want to work cannot find a job after months of looking; violence goes unaddressed in our communities with "stand your ground" laws and easy access to semi automatic weapons that promote more killing; legalized racial profiling disguised as fighting illegal immigration has become law; and a new form of racism that masquerades as fighting nonexistent voter fraud threatens to block the votes of black, brown, disabled, and even the elderly people, including students -the future of our country- and the list can go on. However, collectively we have the POWER stop this craziness and build a society that is tolerant, inclusive and just, and promotes voting! In fact if we do not get out there and vote for President Obama and other progressive candidates in November we are deeply in danger of losing many of the rights that took hundreds of years, blood, and tears to realize.

This is not to say that we do not have individual power. At this year's Summit we will explore all kinds of power including the power to bounce back from life's hardships – resilience. We will talk about the power to take charge of our health and make well informed decisions, and several progressive elected officials will share their experiences working to ensure the voices of all Georgians are heard. In addition, powerful young LGBTQ voices will talk about issues they feel should be on everyone's radar. In fact, we are honored to have one of those youth voices as our keynote speaker, Ms Je-Shawna Wholley of the National Black Justice Coalition. We are equally honored to have renowned political commentator and author Keith Boykin address the Summit.

I would be remiss if I did not also pay tribute to our deceased LGBTQ and straight peaceful warriors who fought the good fight for social justice, and even in death continue to inspire us: James Baldwin, Ceasar Chavez, Rev ML and Mrs. King, Audre Lorde, Rev James Orange, Pat Parker, Bayard Rustin, Pandora Singleton, Allen Thornell and so many others.

I leave you with the powerful spiritual words of an old Baptist hymn that helps me find 'my power' to carry on – count on me..... The Lord has need of workers to till the field today, so kindly He has led me to walk in wisdom way. I pray for grace to help me with all my heart to spare, O Blessed Savior Count on ME..... This is my testimony.

One Love,

Darlene Hudson MSW
Co Chair
State of Black Gay America Summit

BAYARD RUSTIN

Chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington
"Bayard Rustin"

Centennial Celebration. 1912-2012

"We need, in every community, a group of angelic trouble makers" – Bayard Rustin"

Join us on MLK Day at the Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde 12th Annual Breakfast f or Social Justice

2011 BAM breakfast planners & participants

KASIM REED
MAYOR

CITY OF ATLANTA

55 TRINITY AVE, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335-0300

TEL (404) 330-6100

September 1, 2012

Greetings:

As Mayor of Atlanta, it gives me great pleasure to extend warm greetings and offer best wishes to the State of Black Gay America Summit, as you host the *6th Annual State of Black Gay America* during the *Atlanta Black Gay Pride Celebration.*

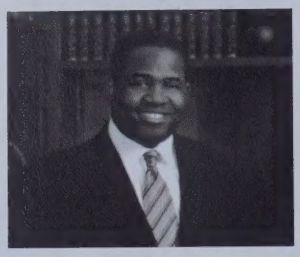
Since its inception, the Atlanta Black Gay Pride Celebration has evolved to become one of the nation's largest annual gatherings for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. The festival attracts many dynamic groups such as yours and is a testament to Atlanta's unique ability to embrace people from all walks of life, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or race. Today, our community stands as a proud beneficiary of the many outstanding contributions of our city's proud gay and lesbian residents.

The City of Atlanta salutes the tremendous work of the State of Black Gay America Summit for encouraging healthy dialogue and fighting to promote equality for all residents. I applaud your ongoing efforts to celebrate the diversity in our community. The summit makes our city a better place to live and visit.

On behalf of the people of Atlanta, I extend best wishes to you for a memorable and remarkable occasion.

Sincerely,

Kasim Reed



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

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September 1, 2012

Greetings:

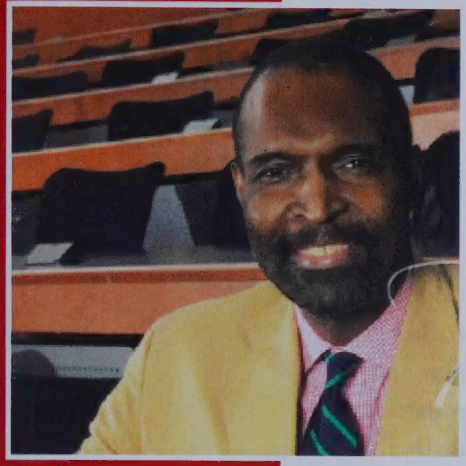
As President of Atlanta City Council and on behalf of my colleagues on the City Council, it is a pleasure to congratulate the members of State of Black Gay America, Inc. as you host your *6th Annual State of Black Gay America Summit*. Your theme, "Embracing Our Collective Power to Influence Change" is reflective of your ongoing efforts to empower the LGBT community.

I commend you as you take this opportunity to engage in open dialogue about the issues and concerns faced by the LGBT community. It is my sincere hope that the Summit leads to a number of action items to help improve the quality of life for the black LGBT community; not only in the city of Atlanta but across the country, as well.

Again, congratulations as you host your *6th Annual State of Black Gay America Summit*. If ever I can be of assistance, please feel free to call upon me.

For Our Atlanta,

Ceasar C. Mitchell



Dr. Rudolph P. Byrd

September 19, 1953
October 21, 2011

On the occasion of the 6th annual State of Black America Summit, we duly honor the remarkable life of Dr. Rudolph P. Byrd who passed away on October 21, 2011 following a long battle with multiple myeloma. He was survived by his partner Henry A. Leonard, sisters Meardis Wells and Andre Sloan, and brothers Michael Byrd and Leonard Byrd. Byrd was a beloved educator and scholar and the founding director of the James Weldon Johnson Institute at Emory University. He was distinguished as the Goodrich C. White of Professor of American Studies. He served Emory for nearly 20 years during which he had led the African American studies department for over a decade. Let it be noted that Byrd was a bridge builder who identified common goals and led collaborative efforts that engaged scholars, activists, service providers, media, universities and communities. He is fondly remembered as a dedicated teacher, rigorous scholar and a polished gentleman of vision and charisma.

While his achievements were numerous, his contributions to education, literature, community awareness and social justice were immeasurable. At the time of his death, he was writing a biography of author Ernest Gaines and working with Henry Louis Gates on an anthology of black American poetry. He had planned to present a lecture series on race and sexuality at Harvard University titled "Other Voices within the Veil: The Emergence of the Black Queer Subject in 20th Century African American Literature and Culture". According to Gates, Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole will deliver the lecture for her comrade. Cole joined Byrd and Spelman College professor Beverly Guy-Sheftall, to produce "I Am Your Sister" a collection of black lesbian feminist writer Audre Lorde's non-fiction prose published in 2009. Boyd and Guy-Sheftall were longtime friends who co-edited "Traps: African American Men on Gender and Sexuality" which featured black men's writings on race, gender and sexuality.

In his prologue to "Traps" titled "The Tradition of John: A Mode of Black Masculinity", Byrd challenged oppressive constructs of manhood and compelled us to consider alternative modes of black masculinity. Byrd offered High John

Rudolph P. Byrd

the Conqueror, a folklore figure also popularized by Zora Neale Hurston, as a symbol of black manhood who is free of rigid patriarchal trappings. He informed us that men, in the tradition of High John are committed to the eradication of sexism and homophobia. Through presenting Lorde's unpublished work Byrd and his esteemed co-editors remind us of the work that is to be done. By illustrating Lorde's ability to radicalize black consciousness and change the ways that we see each other across differences of gender, sexuality and race, Byrd helped ensure that Lorde's legacy could be appreciated in fullness and specificity.

I first met Byrd shortly after moving to Atlanta when and his partner Henry opened their home to host a book club that I attended. Byrd welcomed dissenting opinions because they sparked deeper exploration of the text. When my then partner Lenny and I joined them for supper at their home, we enjoyed a tasty meal, rich conversation and laughter from deep down in the belly. I saw less of him in later years. He would always greet me warmly showing genuine interest in my doings. His unmistakable voice and easy elegance marked him as an approachable, natural icon.

When I received his request last year to identify fellow organizers to notify about the JWJ Institute, I was elated. Under Byrd's helm, the JWJ Institute would broaden awareness of the intersections of race, sexuality and human rights, examine relationships between civil rights and black lgbt movements, and build a network of black lgbt activists and scholars. I was inspired not only by the cause but also by the man who led the charge. The public invitation to local organizers at Charis Books drew frustration and criticism of the process. Many who exemplified the very labor that the initiative would document felt patronized by the invitation given the stage at which plans were already set. While some individuals dismissed such concerns, Byrd apologized for unintended exclusions. Although his illness was by that point quite visible, Byrd was determined to seek resolution.

Within two months, he met with a small group to share updates and address the issues expressed at the forum. Byrd pledged his commitment to establish greater inclusion and transparency. I do believe he realized as he declared in "Traps" "it is time to move to the next level of difficulty and possibility". At this my last encounter with him, he was doing the work in the mode for which he was renowned. He was demonstrating his own integrity by dedicating his precious remaining time to uphold the integrity of this effort. He envisioned that we might see beyond dichotomies of activist and scholar, university and community to work toward liberation in a liberated fashion. As his sisters and brothers outsider before him, Byrd knew that we must resist our learned compulsion to distrust each other. He recognized that in order to achieve a more just and loving society we must be willing to transform and radicalize first ourselves.

By Craig Washington

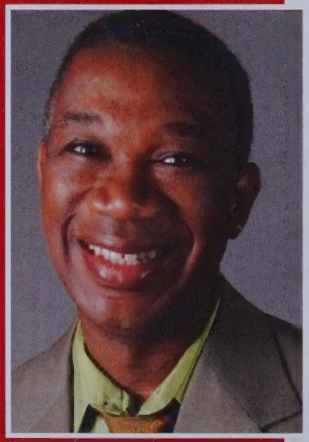
Zora Neale Hurston. American author and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston was a principal figure in the Harlem Renaissance. She is the author of "Their Eyes Were Watching God," a book heralded as "one of the most poetic works of fiction by a black writer in the first half of the 20th century, and one of the most revealing treatments in modern literature of a woman's quest for satisfying life."

ZAMI
NOBLA
Sponsors
Black Lesbians and Breast Cancer
A Model for Prevention, Wellness, and Resilience
Saturday
September 22, 2012
9am - 6 pm
Courtyard by Marriott
130 Clairemont Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030
Space is limited and pre-registration is required.
To sign up and for more information visit www.zami.org
Collaborating & Funding Partners:
The American Psychological Association (APA)
Georgia State University Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research
The Center for Black Women Wellness

Emcee's

Zandra Conway

Zandra Conway served as a board member of several community-based non profit organizations while living in Atlanta including, In The Life Atlanta, National Black Justice Coalition, Georgia Equality, For the Kids and Atlanta Executive Network. She is also a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She has become a small business owner along with her daughter Kendra Renae of Conway Connection Group, She is also the proud grandmother of Amira, her granddaughter.



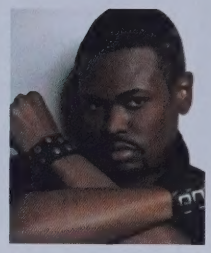
Duncan Teague

Duncan Teague is a Ministerial Candidate with the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Association, where he also serves on the Appointments Committee of the UUA Board. He is a member of the UU Congregation of Atlanta. He has returned to Atlanta after completing his Ministerial Internship with the Tennessee Valley UU Church of Knoxville, TN. Teague has more than twenty years of work in HIV/AIDS advocacy, prevention, education and research. He is a recognized leader in the GLBT community and is a featured contributor to "Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South" He is happily married to his long-time companion of eighteen plus years, David Thurman.

Award-winning journalist **Anaré V. Holmes** has worked with CNN, BET News, and public broadcasting stations covering untold and under-reported stories about compelling characters that shape American life. For his investigative reporting, Holmes was honored with the Ida B. Wells Best News Story Award from the National Newspaper Publishers' Association. He is currently producing a documentary series exploring mental health in the Black community. Holmes attended Howard University and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Consumer Broadcast Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Over the course of his career, **Patrick Kelly** has been involved in reducing the number of people who become infected with HIV, increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV, and reducing HIV-related health disparities through community education. Patrick has also been actively involved in the National HIV Vaccine Research Education Initiative (NHVREI) with development of programs and strategies to reach young black gay men and encourage their participation in research studies. Consequently he has spearheaded the development and implementation of national community forums, local small group sessions, and individual counseling approaches.

Mary Hooks joined the SONG team as a field organizer for the state of Alabama in March 2011. Mary works full-time in Human Resources and holds a Master of Business Administration with a focus in Human Resources Management and a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification. Though Mary is new to organizing, her personal story has prepared her for such a time as this. The chapters of her life begin with a life of poverty, being parentless, and shy. Eventually the story unfolds of a rebellious teenager who converts to a devoted Christian in the Pentecostal church, who comes out as a lesbian and left with no support of her foster or church family and stricken with Christian guilt. The climax of this story occurs when, in undergrad at a private Lutheran college, Mary begins to redefine herself and discovered a radical desire to be a catalyst for change in the world.



Dwight Allen O'Neal has always been a class act with qualities that tagged him as Little Rock, Arkansas' very own Local Celebrity. When leaving the South in pursuit of his Hollywood dream he buffed his talents to perfection at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Working as a professional entertainer as Allen O'Neal, he has been seen on the big screen in Hitch, Comedy Central, MTV, Rolling Stone Magazine, several commercials, modeling campaigns, and much more. When the opportunity arrived for O'Neal to write an advice column in Teen People Magazine, it opened his eyes to his ability to assist teenagers with issues they face. Afterwards he took on the challenge of mentoring LGBTQ through writing, creating, and producing Christopher Street TV. Most recently the story of Christopher Street continues through his new film project "CockTALES (Fall 2012 Launch)," which is celebrating homo and hetero life experiences though the eyes of two New York based entrepreneurs. O'Neal is also the personal make-up artist to Gossip Girl's Leighton Meester and supermodel Josie Maran. He has developed an interview style for a dating show Dating Dwight, and works as a media correspondent for The FutureForward.net with his very own column Dishin' It With Dwight. O'Neal has been named one of the hottest rising 'out' celebrities of color by Instinct Magazine.

Charles Stephens is the Southern Regional Organizer for AIDS United. He is a member of the AVAC PX Roar Research Advocacy Working Group, a member of the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance, and is currently Co-Chair of the Emory University Hope Clinic Community Advisory Board. He has a blog on The Huffington Post, and has also contributed to The Georgia Voice, The Gay and Lesbian Review, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, Alternet, and Wiretap. He was also in the anthologies Think Again and If We Have to take Tomorrow. He has also been a recipient of the Marlon Riggs Social Just Award and the Tony Daniels Community Award

10:30 A.M. -11:00 A.M	Registration
11:00 Emcee	Ms. Zandra Conway & Minister Duncan Teague
Call to order/ Libation & Invocation	Duncan Teague
Welcome & Special Presentation	Representative Karla Drenner
SBGA Purpose Statement	Gregory Allen, President/CEO, XEI & Chair of SBGA

Summit A Cultural expression
Special Presentation

Special tribute – The Life and Work of Rudolph Bryd Ph.D
SBGA Service Award of Excellence
Acceptance by Henry Leonard,

Introduction of Elected Officials

Acknowledgments — Darlene Hudson

Noon Luncheon

Featured Keynote Speaker
Je-Shawna Wholley
Senior Fellow & Emerging Leader
National Black Justice Coalition
&
Political Commentary
Keith Boykin
Former Clinton White House Aide, & CNBC Contributor

2012 Embracing Our Collective POWER to Influence Change Panel Discussions

12:30 – 1:00 Panel I We Are Essential: The Power of Knowledge to LIVE!
Panel 1A Health Care Reform and You

In America one of the biggest political issues that has implications for the lives of all Americans is the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It has the potential to reduce health disparities in the LGBT community and among racial minorities and the poor. The purpose of the panel is to discuss the implications of health care reform specifically for the LGBT community and how people can advocate for the full implementation of ACA in Georgia.

Panelists: Jeff Graham, Celeste Davis, Monica Simpson
Moderator: Charles Stephens

1:00 - 1:30 Panel 1B Research as a Tool for Prevention: Getting to the HAART of Prevention

In the last few years, we have witnessed many exciting breakthroughs in HIV prevention research. . The FDA approval of the HIV drug Truvada as an HIV prevention tool, the release of data from the HPTN 064 ISIS and the HPTN 061 Brothers research studies, continuing research into the racial and gender disparities in HIV incidence and prevalence have all provided important developments that have shaped how we think about HIV/AIDS in our current moment. This panel will explore some of the key research breakthroughs and provide insights.

Panelists: Dr. Paula Frew, Dr. Dawn Smith, Dr. Earl Joyner
Moderator: Patrick Kelly

1:30 – 2:15 (Panel II) The Power to Rock the Vote

Panel 2 A -Embracing Our Collective Power to Fund Progressive Campaigns: finding the dollars
This panel will discuss sources for funding campaigns for progressive Black LGBT candidates or candidates who will work on behalf of LGBT issues.

Panelists Sebastian Alverius, Michael J. Brewer, Angela Brown

Panel 2 B -Progressive Candidates Speak on the Power of the Vote

Elected officials discuss their campaign experiences, share lessons on how they address progressive issues while in office and how the community can be supportive of them.

Panelists: Keisha Waites, Joan Garner, Stacy Abrams
Moderator: Anaré V. Holmes

2:15 –2:45 (Panel III) Power of the People: Resilience

This panel will describe personal experiences and lessons on resiliency in the face of oppression and marginalization and how those lessons might help others find their voice when facing adversity.

Panelists: Paulina Helm-Hernandez, Tracee Mc Daniel, Imani Evans, Holiday Simmons
Moderator: Mary Hooks

2:45 -3:15 (Panel IV) Powerful & Passionate Voices of Youth

This panel will discuss how LGBT youth can assert their leadership in today's struggle for equality and visibility.

Panelists: Cortez Wright, Jonathan Marshall, Markese Sanders
Moderator: Dwight Allen O'Neal

3:15-3:30 (Panel V) The Power of Faith and the Spirit of Love -- Rev. Angela Denise Davis

A Call to Action:
Closing Remarks

Je-Shawna C. Wholley

Je-Shawna C. Wholley is a rising star and the newest Senior Fellow at NBJC. She is also an active member of the organization's Leadership Advisory Council, providing strategic insight on outreach and issues affecting Black LGBT young people.

A recent graduate of Spelman College, Wholley served as President of the LGBT student union, Afrekete, for two years and was credited with numerous accomplishments during her tenure. Her work on and off campus, afforded her accolades from the Human Rights Campaign and the National Black Justice Coalition as well as the opportunity to meet President Barack Obama at a White House reception commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

Wholley has also been honored as the recipient of the 2011 Campus Pride Voice & Action National Leadership Award for her tireless efforts to make Spelman College and the Atlanta University Center a more inclusive environment for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) gay and transgender student body. Additionally, she was instrumental in the research and planning of the historical Audre Lorde HBCU Summit, which focused on the social climate regarding LGBT affairs on HBCU campuses. This was the culminating event to a year-long research project conducted by the Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman College.

Dedicated to the empowerment of LGBT youth of color, Wholley is currently traveling across the nation to conduct workshops on creating safe and inclusive campuses for all students to thrive.

National Black Justice Coalition
NBJC.org

September 19-22, 2012

OUT on the HILL

National Black Justice Coalition
Black LGBT Leadership Summit
Washington, D.C.

Join African American policy makers, organizers, and concerned citizens in our nation's capital to advocate for an African American agenda inclusive of Black LGBT people. It is time to **OWN YOUR POWER** and make your voice heard!

To register, go to: **regonline.com/outonthehill2012**

To learn more about NBJC, visit: NBJC.org

" Embracing Our Collective POWER to Influence Change"

Meet our 2012 SBGA

Stacey Y. Abrams is the House Minority Leader for the Georgia General Assembly and State Representative for the 84th House District. She is the first woman to lead either party in the Georgia General Assembly and is the first African-American to lead in the House of Representatives. Stacey serves on the following committees: Appropriations, Ethics, Judiciary Non-Civil, Rules and Ways & Means. She co-founded and acts as Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of NOWaccount Network Corporation, a financial services firm. Stacey also co-founded Nourish, Inc., a beverage company with a focus on infants and toddlers. Stacey received her J.D. from the Yale Law School. She graduated from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin with an M.P.Aff. in public policy. She earned a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies (Political Science, Economics and Sociology) from Spelman College, magna cum laude.

Stacy has received numerous awards and recognitions including, Legislator of the Year by the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals, Public Servant of the Year by the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Champion for Georgia Cities by the Georgia Municipal Association, as Legislator of the Year by the DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Legislative Service Award from the Association County Commissioners, and an Environmental Leader Award from the Georgia Conservation Voters to name a few. She has received the Stevens Award for Outstanding Legal Contributions and the Elmer Staats Award for Public Service, both national honors presented by the Harry S. Truman Foundation. In 2012, she was recognized as one of "12 Rising Legislators to Watch" by Governing magazine and one of the "100 Most Influential Georgians" by Georgia Trend.

Sebastian C. Alverius is an entrepreneur, writer, producer, philanthropist, and speaker, focusing most of his vision and talks on the rapidly expanding trend of the false self, which is creating an adverse effect on our techno-savvy, global population. An entrepreneur who gained successful achievements while launching for-profit businesses in the areas of men's apparel, electronic distribution, health and wellness, and corporate consultation and management, this business mogul creates, achieves, and carries out his dreams one accomplishment at a time. Sebastian recently included into his overall focus empowerment, motivation, and inspiring the LGBTQ community. Learning to overcome false-self-identity was a challenge that he too had to overcome, and now he is fulfilling a mission in motivating his peers to also take that leap over the obstacles of self-hate, self-defeat, and self-destruction. Being the Executive Vice President of Operations for Alverius and Company INC, has allowed him to achieve his dream of making an impact in the technological and business world. Currently, he has taken on his life's passion of producing, inspiring, and even branching out into literature with an upcoming nonfiction narrative entitled CONTOURS OF THE SKULL.

Michael J. Brewer, a 26 year old burgeoning political voice, currently serves as the Programs and Policy Manager at the National Black Justice Coalition. Having previously served as Chief-of-Staff to Georgia State Representative Alisha Thomas Morgan and Field Organizer at the Equality Foundation of Georgia, Brewer relocated to Washington, DC June 2011 to join the staff of Congressman Larry Kissell (D, NC 8th), where he served as Deputy Director of Operations & Legislative Aide. Brewer was named nationally as one of Out Magazine's "Out 100" in 2008, and has also been featured in the Los Angeles Times, VIBE Magazine and several blog and web articles. Brewer graduated from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in May 2009.

Angela Elizabeth Brown was born in Louisburg, NC, the third child of Harry and Anita White Brown and spent her formative years in Wilmington, NC until the age of 13 wherein the infamous Wilmington 10 struggle would impinge on her early in life. Angela began her work as a community organizer by founding Leadership Initiative Project, a rural youth leadership development, organization based in Franklin County, NC in 1987. In 1990, Angela left NC to join the staff of 21st Century Youth Leadership Movement in Selma, AL—continuing her work and commitment to youth leadership within the human and civil rights struggles. By 1992, she joined the staff of Greenpeace, USA as a toxic campaigner that lead to the closing of major polluting industries targeting poor, communities of color throughout the south. Angela has been called "a drum major for justice" for her work. Angela currently manages Imani Services, Inc., a consulting firm she founded in 2006 that works in partnership with existing companies and organizations to help them develop new programs

and ideas to advance their mission and increase their vision. In addition, she currently services as Interim Executive Director of First African Community Development Cooperation, Lithonia, GA and works with the Federation for Southern Cooperatives, East Point, GA.

Angela holds a BA degree in Philosophy & Religion from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a Masters of Divinity degree from Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA. She currently serves as Supply Pastor at Northern Heights Presbyterian Church, Selma, AL and is an Ordained Elder and Minister at First African Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia. She has or continues to serve numerous organizations including, Charis Circle, a feminist organization, Atlanta, GA; Franklinton Center, a historic land-based institution, Enfield, NC; 21st Century Youth Leadership Movement, Selma, AL; Southern Association of Black Educators, Savannah, GA; Andrew Goodman Foundation's Freedom Summer Project, New York, New York; and a host of other organizations. She has received awards and recognition for her tireless efforts as a youth leader, activist and organizer.

Rev. Angela Denise Davis, M.Div., M.S., CRC is an ordained minister, certified rehabilitation counselor, and consultant engaged within the intersection of theology, disability, and work. In addition, she is a blind, black, lesbian clergywoman who facilitates conversation and theological reflection at the fence line of various differences. Davis, who was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas, is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, and Georgia State University. After college, she served as a Jane Addams Fellow at the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy in Indianapolis, Indiana and worked in the non-profit sector with the National Association for Community Leadership and the United Way of Central Indiana. Davis later relocated to Portland, Oregon, where she worked as a student minister at Mallory Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Davis came to appreciate how a theological vision for social justice can be fused with creative expression to transform our spiritual lives. After graduating from Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Davis joined the staff of American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee as the Director of Extension Education. After three years she returned to Vanderbilt University Divinity School as the Director of Admissions. In the fall of 2003, Davis suffered a profound loss of vision. Her personal experience with blindness led her to become an advocate for persons with disabilities. In May of 2012, she earned a Master of Rehabilitation Counseling degree from Georgia State University where she was a Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Scholar. While a graduate student at GSU, Davis served as an intern at the Center for the Visually Impaired in Atlanta, Georgia. After graduating, she worked with the American Association of People with Disabilities in Washington, D.C. as an Interfaith Disability Advisory Coalition (IDAC) intern. Currently, Davis offers rehabilitation counseling and consulting through her business, Braille South, an employment resource that helps individuals connect the dots of rehabilitation, work, and reimagination. She currently lives with her partner, Mary Anne Adams, in East Point, Georgia.

Celeste Davis joined the staff at the Legal Services Center in June 2012 as a senior clinical fellow with the Center's Health Law and Policy Clinic. Her work includes the Clinic's State Healthcare Access Research Project (SHARP) and Providing Access to Health Solutions (PATHS) addressing type 2 diabetes and obesity issues. During law school, Celeste completed an externship with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and was a clinical student in the Massachusetts State House's Joint Committee on Public Health. Before law school, she worked at the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) on HIV/AIDS prevention and care and treatment. Additionally, Celeste worked as the Director of Community Health at the Greater Detroit Area Health Council focusing on coalition building and women's reproductive health services advocacy. Celeste received her BS from Bennett College for Women in 2003, MPH in Health Management and Policy from the University of Michigan in 2006, and JD from Boston University in 2012.

Imani Evans, MA, Activist/Artist/Author "Violence is an experience, not an identity" says Imani Evans. It is the founding principle on which she started Women Healing Women, Inc, an Atlanta-based non-profit offering healing from sexual and domestic violence for sexual minorities and women of color. Her professional and community service experience has integrated a commitment to various concerns, such as people living with HIV/AIDS, homelessness, mental health parity, and services for the aging. Imani has been a social change agent for more than 24 years; previously in NY and NJ and for the last 15 years in Atlanta's LGBTQI community as a founding member of the Black LGBT Coalition, HRC's Atlanta Diversity Committee, board membership with In The Life Atlanta and hosting SpeakFire, to name a few. She received Special Congressional Recognition as director of a national breast and cervical cancer awareness program in NJ, and recognition from Zami, and Unity Fellowship Church for her community service. Imani is pursuing a doctorate in Counseling Education and Supervision, and holds a MA in Counseling Psychology. She is the author and creator of Today is the Miracle, Reflections: A self-discovery journal, and Our Heart-Our History,

an anthology of writings by elderly women. Imani is an artist and healer, combining her talents to foster an atmosphere for transformation and empowerment.

Dr. Paula Frew is currently Assistant Professor of Medicine within the Division of Infectious Diseases at Emory University School of Medicine. She holds a secondary appointment at the same rank within the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education at the Emory Rollins School of Public Health. She currently serves as the Director of Health Communication and Applied Community Research at The Hope Clinic of the Emory Vaccine Research Center, Emory University School of Medicine. She is an active investigator with a focus on HIV prevention in women and minorities. Her team recently led an evaluation study for the Project LINK initiative – a project developed in collaboration with the Atlanta AIDS Partnership Fund (AAPF) and the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta along with partner agencies and community to reduce HIV incidence among minority women living in one of Atlanta's high risk zones. As an evaluator with AIDS United (formerly the National AIDS Fund), Dr. Frew worked with AIDS service organizations and community-based agencies throughout the Southeastern United States to gauge progress on policy and advocacy initiatives in communities most affected by HIV/AIDS. She holds an undergraduate degree from the University of California at San Diego, an MA degree in Liberal Arts: Health, Culture, and Society from San Diego State University, an MPH degree from Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health, and a PhD in Health Promotion and Behavior from the University of Georgia (College of Public Health). She recently was awarded the Gerald Ludd Lifetime Achievement Award for HIV/AIDS Community Service from the National AIDS Education and Services for Minorities.

Commissioner Joan P. Garner, a native of Washington DC, made Atlanta her home in 1978. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the University of the District of Columbia and a Master's Degree in Organizational Communication from Howard University.

Commissioner Garner has an extensive history of community service in the non-profit sector and community leadership. A few of the Boards she has served on are the Atlanta Beltline Affordable Housing, Metropolitan Community Development Corporation, Council of Foundations, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and Southerners on New Ground, to name a few. She was appointed to the Transition Team of Mayor Elect Maynard Jackson and the Atlanta Olympic Citizen's Advisory Commission. She also served as Senior Advisor on Gay and Lesbian Issues under Mayor Jackson. Under Mayor Kasim Reed, Commissioner Garner served as a member of the Public Works Commissioner Search Committee.

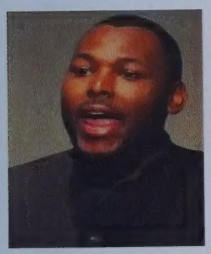
As an entrepreneur, Commissioner Garner founded Garner Results, Inc., a consultancy that develops giving strategies and provides management support to the non-profit and philanthropic communities. Commissioner Garner was previously President and CEO of the Historic District Development Corporation, a community-based, nonprofit organization that facilitates historic preservation in communities including, the revitalization of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic District. Her other past accomplishments include, serving as Executive Director of the Southern Partners Fund, a community-based public foundation committed to equal rights, Co-Director of the National Network of Grant Makers, which supports social justice work, and Executive Director of the Fund for Southern Communities, which fosters social change in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Commissioner Garner currently resides in the Historic Old Fourth Ward neighborhood with her partner her partner of thirteen years, Judge Jane Morrison.

Jeff Graham is the executive director of Georgia Equality, an organization that works to advance fairness, safety and opportunity for gay, lesbian, and bisexual and transgender communities throughout Georgia. Jeff began advocating on LGBT and AIDS related issues as a college student in the mid-1980s and has continued his advocacy on these issues since that time. He has been involved in a wide variety or grassroots and legislative advocacy campaigns and has served as either an executive director or board member to a number of local and national organizations working on issues related to gay and transgender rights, access to healthcare, community empowerment, and fighting against racism, sexism and poverty. He is a current board member of Georgians for a Healthy Future and the national Equality Federation.

Paulina Helm-Hernandez is a queer, Chicana femme cha-cha girl, artist, trainer, political organizer & trouble-maker-at-large from Veracrúz, Mexico. She grew up in rural North Carolina and is currently growing roots in Atlanta, GA with her love Ashe W. Helm-Hernandez. After coordinating the Southern regional youth activism program at the Highlander Research & Education Center for over 4 years, Paulina joined the staff of Southerners on New Ground (SONG). She has been the Co-Director at SONG for 6 years. Paulina has a background in farm worker and immigrant/refugee rights organizing, cultural work, youth organizing, antiviolence work, and liberation work that focuses on people most affected by violence, poverty, war and racism. Paulina is also a founding member of the national First Nations/

Two Spirit Collective, a queer & trans indigenous movement. She has also served on the boards of YouthAction, Student Action with Farmworkers, The Third Wave Foundation and the DataCenter. She currently sits on the Vision and Strategies Council of Kindred Southern Healing Justice Collective.

Dr. Earl C Joyner, MD is a native of Tarrytown, New York and a graduate of University of Pennsylvania where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Sciences and a Medical Degree at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Dr. Joyner has over fifteen years of expert experience in the health care arena including, HIV/AIDS, HIV/Hepatitis C specialist at Limestone Correctional Facility-Alabama, HIV Specialist/Staff Physician, Fulton County Jail-Atlanta, GA, and DeKalb County Jail HIV Specialist/Staff –Decatur, GA, Georgia District 4 Health Services/HIV Care Director (now in Newman, GA) and Internal Medicine Private Practice. He has a passion for community, the arts, music, tennis, volleyball, gourmet food, world travel, and entertainment. Dr Joyner is also an entrepreneur in Atlanta and believes "obstacles mean the way is a bit more difficult, not impossible. If you look at the obstacles that have been overcome, you cannot help but look at the ones in front of you as an opportunity to shine".



Jonathan Marshall is a native of Savannah, Georgia and currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia. "Pastor Jay" as he is called loves to laugh, joke and have a great time. He is a beast at action games on Play station III and his GameCube, and has almost completed his first novel "The Church & Me". He is the son of Brother Charles and Co- Pastor Jestine Marshall, and just happens to be an apostolic baby, born into the HOLINESS Apostolic movement. He was ordained an Elder, in April of 2006 by the National Church Of God In Christ Inc (Memphis Tennessee). A graduate of Morehouse College, where he majored in Sociology, Pastor Jay currently attends Troy State University pursuing a Masters in Post Secondary Education. He is the organizer and president of the Lion of Judah Youth & Young Adult Ministry, which holds an annual Young Adult conference in Atlanta, Georgia. He has also served as vice president emeritus for the Missing Link Ministerial Alliance of Atlanta, a Morehouse Chaplin at Morehouse College and currently is CEO and founder of the City of Champions Full Gospel Church in 2011 which is a house of worship for ALL people. Jonathan founded COCFGC as a ministry that's determined to do ministry outside of the four walls of religion and tradition. He has also been the guest on numerous blog talk shows and one radio talk shows live. Pastor Jon has also had the privilege to minister outside of the United States in Costa Rica, while doing student exchange.

Tracee McDaniel was born and raised in South Carolina. She is the founder and Executive Director of the Juxtaposed Center for Transformation, Inc. and is motivated by a strong desire to ensure that all transgender and gender non-conforming people receive equality and justice. Juxtaposed Center for Transformation, Inc. is an advocacy, consulting, and social services referral organization specifically designed to empower the largely diverse transgender and gender non-conforming community with a vision to act as a collective body to provide basic, necessary, and fundamental services to the transgender community. Driven by her personal motto, "show up and participate for equality", and supported by her spouse of almost two decades, Tracee has been the recipient of several accolades and awards including, Women Healing Women, Inc. 2012 "Transgender Revolutionary" award, GA Voice 2012 "Best Transgender Activist" award; S1C 2009 "Transgender Leadership" Award, Unity Fellowship Church's 2008 "Community Leadership" Award, and received an Atlanta City Council Proclamation Declaration in 2008. In addition, Tracee lobbied the United States Congress in 2008 to support a fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and increased HIV/AIDS funding. In 2007, Tracee became the first transgender person invited to deliver the keynote address at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration/March/Rally.

Markese Sanders is the Programming Assistant tasked with creating and co-coordinating the governing body of The Evolution Project, The Evolution Leadership Institute. Markese started working in HIV prevention at the tender age of 16 and has dedicated his life to improving the health of black gay men across the nation. Markese is a proud graduate of Emory University with a Bachelors in Science in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology with a minor in Economics. His motto for life is "shoot for the moon -even if you miss, you'll at least land among the stars".

Monica Raye Simpson, currently the Interim Executive Director of SisterSong, is a native of North Carolina, and is a proud graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, one of the country's historical black universities. Because of her decision to come out as a same-gender loving woman while attending undergrad, Monica became deeply involved in LGBT organizing on and off

campus. Upon graduation, she was hired as the first person of color at the Lesbian & Gay Community Center in Charlotte as the Operations Director. She made transition from the community center in 2005 to become the Ujamaa Coordinator for Grassroots Leadership where she trained young African Americans in philanthropy, fundraising, and activism. In 2010, Monica moved to Atlanta, GA in to serve as the Development Coordinator with SisterSong. Since her time at SisterSong, she was promoted to Deputy Coordinator in 2011 and will now serve as the Interim Executive Director. Through her activism and organizational work, Monica has become a nationally sought-after facilitator and organizer. She has been featured in many publications and has written many articles on LGBT issues, philanthropy and activism. Monica, along with three other activists, founded Charlotte NC Black Gay Pride in 2005. The board was awarded the Bayard Rustin - Audre Lourde Community Service Award through the National Black Justice Coalition as well as the Human Rights Campaign's Community Service Award for their work in North Carolina. Monica is also a founder of the Charlotte African American Giving Circle and she also sits on the board for Resource Generation based in New York and the board for the Fund for Southern Communities.

Dr. Dawn K. Smith is a medical epidemiologist in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) where she serves as Biomedical Interventions Activity Lead in the Epidemiology Branch and conducts activities supporting biomedical interventions to reduce rates of new HIV infections in the US, such as PrEP.

Dr. Smith began her career at CDC coordinating a large scale study that looked at the effects of HIV-infection on women (the HER Study). She then led the development of CDC guidelines for the use of prophylaxis for persons exposed to HIV in a non healthcare setting, and led the writing of a 5-year microbicide research agenda for the agency. She spent 4 years as the Associate Director for HIV research at the CDC field station in Botswana where she established clinical trial infrastructure with integrated socio-behavioral research and initiated PrEP trials. On returning to Atlanta, she served as Associate Chief of Science in the Epidemiology Branch for 3 years before taking her current position. She maintains a strong research interest in the intersections of race, ethnicity, social class, injection drug use, and the HIV epidemic. Dr. Smith has served on scientific committees and review panels for NIAID, the Office of AIDS Research, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Smith received her M.D. from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and went on to complete an M.P.H. in public health policy and international health, and an M.S. in clinical research design and statistical analysis at the University of Michigan. A family physician, Dr. Smith has practiced in varied settings, providing medical care in a Native American community, in an urban clinic with Hispanic, Vietnamese, and African-American families, and to HIV infected women at Grady Hospital in Atlanta.

Representative Keisha Waites brings a broad record of civic involvement, strong business acumen, and fresh ideas to the Georgia House of Representatives District 60. She has dedicated much of her life to public service in government as well as in local community and civic-based organizations. She served as a Legislative Director and Chief of Staff for the Georgia House of Representatives District 44, assisted hundreds of homeowners with the American dream of homeownership while working for a major lending institution, and facilitated loans to many small businesses to help them grow, create new jobs and nourish the economy while at the US Small Business Administration. Her experience also includes serving at the Department of Homeland Security and the City of Atlanta Department of Revenue. Keisha currently serves as a Congressional Governmental Affairs Officer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and previously supporting the 8 southeastern states, now the entire continental United States. In her work with FEMA she supported Members of Congress during the following domestic and international incidents: Hurricane Irene, BP Oil Spill, Haiti Earthquake, Hurricane IKE and Hurricane Katrina. Keisha has served on the Atlanta Commission on Women and National Women's Political Caucus-Atlanta Chapter. She is a graduate of the Atlanta Planning and Advisory Board Leadership Institute and a former Executive member Post Seat Holder. This unique experience has allowed Keisha to make an immediate and significant impact for working Georgia families.

Cortez Wright is a Southern gent, organizer, and dedicated foodie currently living and sometimes working in Atlanta, Georgia. He's a poor, queer in the process of obtaining his B.A. in Comparative Literature and/or Women's Studies. Cortez doesn't believe that a world "free of oppression" will ever exist, but he does work for one in which he can safely and comfortably love his family/friends in the ways they want. He believes in intentional and thoughtful language and communication that acknowledges varied lived experiences. He states that access should be a key factor to any and all organizing and that intersectionality exists and is not a tool for gaining "diversity" points. Cortez is a firm believer in grass roots organizing, community-based leadership, memory foam, things cooked in butter or olive oil, and Saturday morning cartoons from the 90s.

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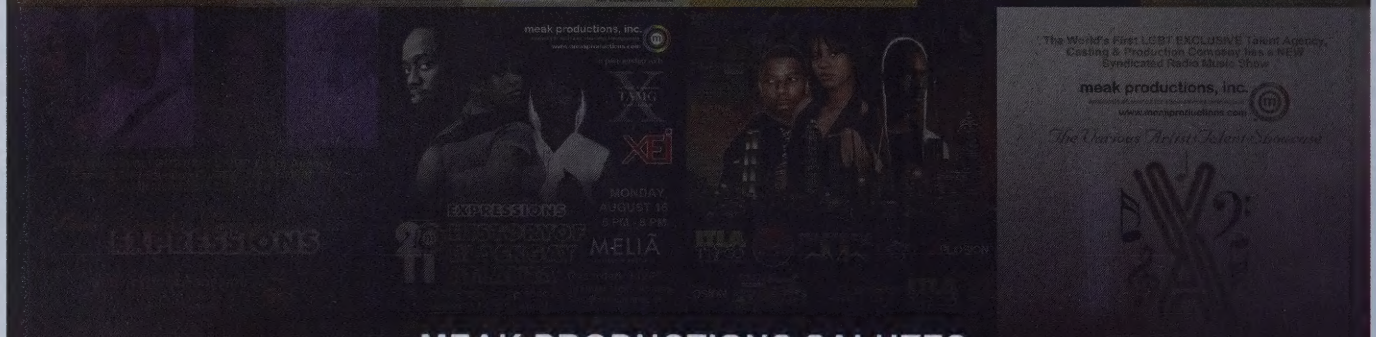

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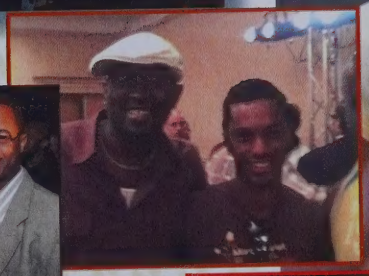

SBGA Summit Notes

the SBGA Summit

People who've attended previous SBGA Summits came away feeling energized, inspired and wanted to contribute to the success of this year's event. We hope you will be motivated to do the same so that we can continue the tradition of providing a forum where Black LGBT people and their allies can dialogue about the issues that affect us the most.

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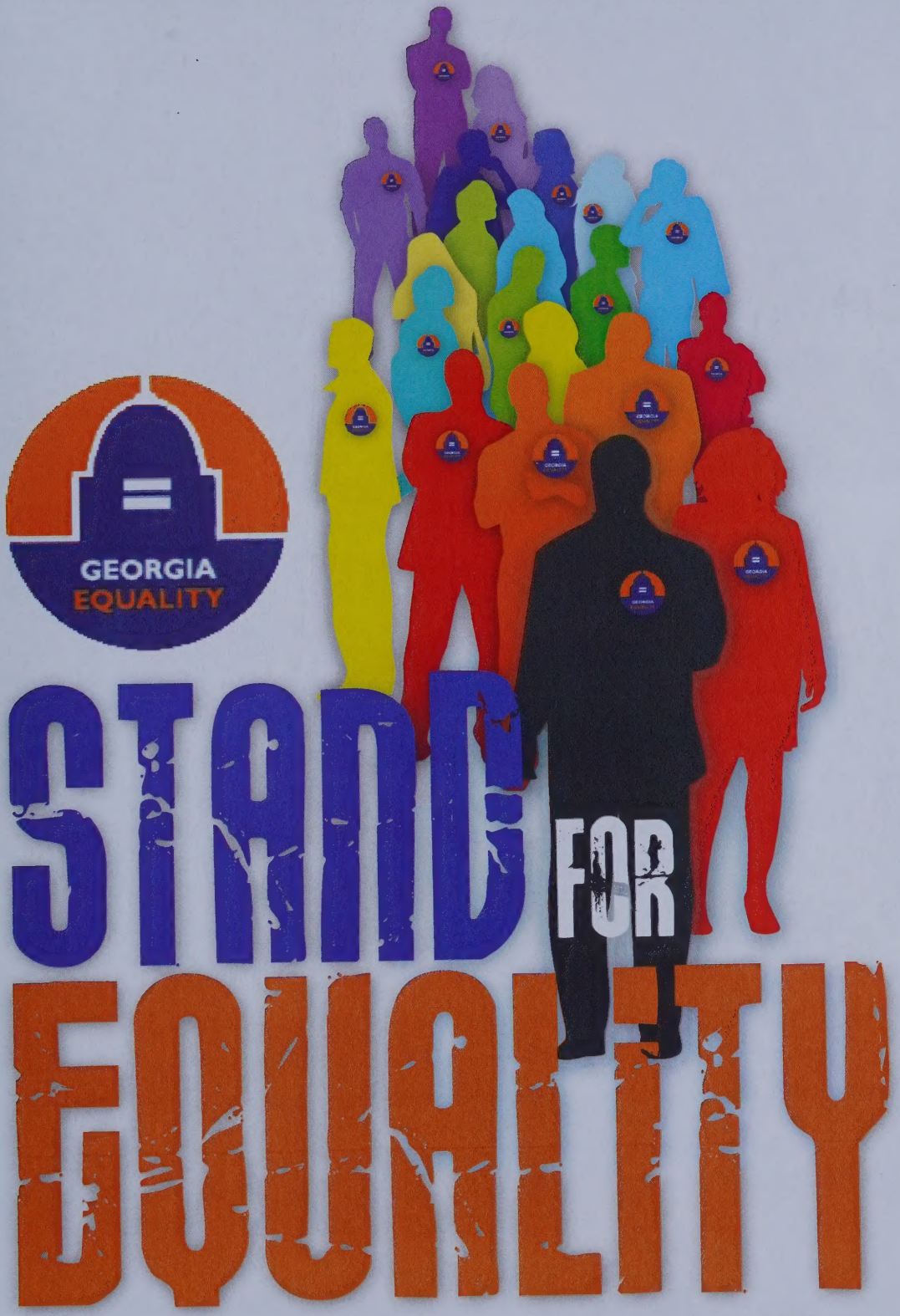
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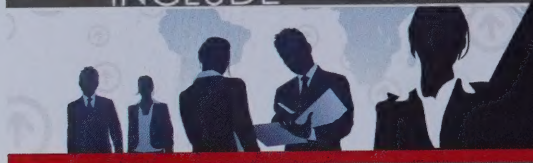

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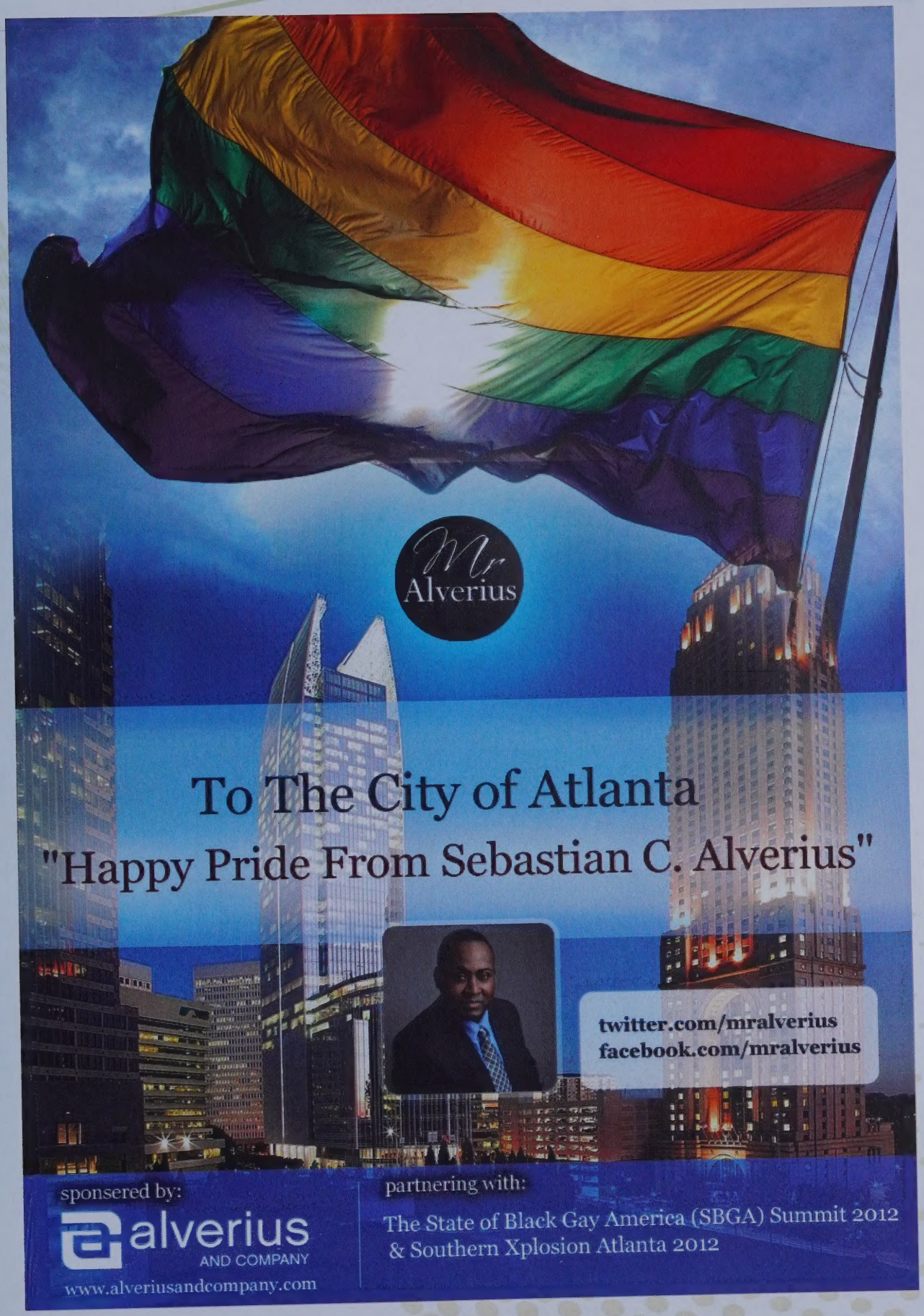
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Homosexuality and the Bible:

God is Love and Love Is For Everyone

Sept. 15, 2012
1:00 p.m.

Did God Make Me Gay?

What does GOD, not doctrine really say?

- Definition of Homosexuality
- Does the Bible address the loving relationships between two individuals of the same sex?
- Did God make me Gay/Lesbian?
- Am I going to hell if I am in love and attracted?

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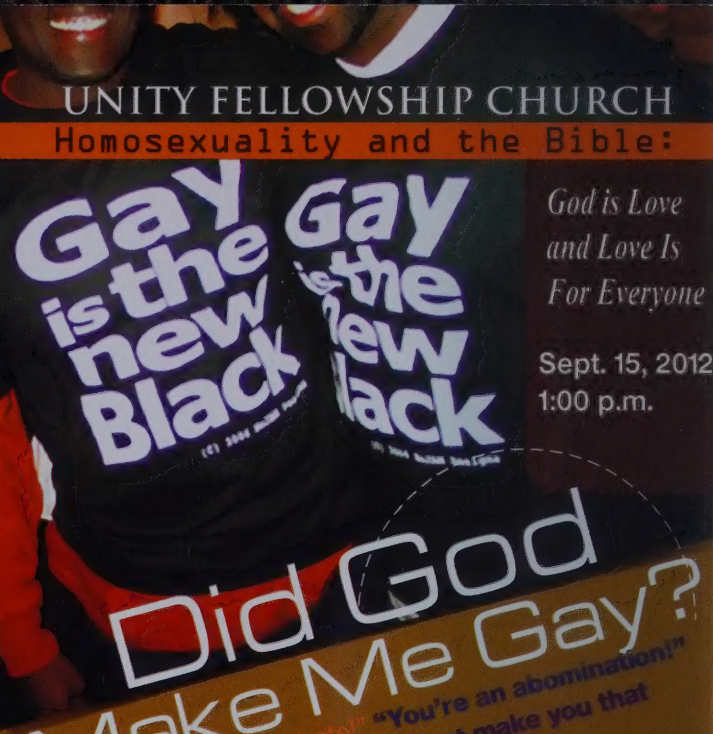

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Homosexuality and the Bible:

God is Love and Love Is For Everyone

Sept. 15, 2012
1:00 p.m.

Did God Make Me Gay?

"You're a reprobate!" "You're an abomination!" "Its unnatural!" "God did not make you that way!" "You need deliverance!"

These are statements that same sex attracted individuals hear constantly when their sexual orientation is discovered. These statements leave the individuals fearful which then causes them to hate themselves or lie.

But what does God, not doctrine really say?

Elder Tony Jones, Instructo

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State of Black Gay America (SBGA) Summit 2012

Event Survey

The SBGA Summit organizers need your valuable feedback! Please check the best answer(s) to each question below.

Demographics

1. Age:	☐ Under 16 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-30 ☐ 31-40 ☐ 41-50 ☐ 51-60 ☐ 61+
2. Gender :	☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Transgender ☐ Intersex
3. Race:	☐ Black ☐ White ☐ Latina/o ☐ Asian/ Pacific Islander ☐ Other_____
4. Geographic Location	Where do you live? State /Country (if outside U.S.) _____
5. I identify myself as:	☐ Bisexual ☐ Gay ☐ Lesbian ☐ Queer ☐ Straight/Heterosexual ☐ Other_____
6. Religion:	☐ Atheist ☐ Agnostic ☐ Buddhist ☐ Christian ☐ Judaism ☐ Muslim ☐ Spiritual ☐ Other_____
7. Occupation: (Select all that apply)	☐ Clergy ☐ Finance ☐ Education ☐ Music ☐ Military ☐ Health Care ☐ Criminal Justice ☐ Fashion ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Media ☐ Govt. Agency ☐ Social Services ☐ Other_____
8. Income Range:	☐ Under $20,000 ☐ $20,001-$40,000 ☐ $40,001-$60,000 ☐ $60,001-$80,000 ☐ $80,00-$100,000 ☐ Over $100,000
9. Highest Level of Education:	☐ Less than high school ☐ High school/GED ☐ Bachelor's Degree ☐ Graduate Degree

Registration Questions

10. Did you register for the Summit online? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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11. How did you hear about the Summit? ☐ Radio ☐ Television ☐ Social Network ☐ Friend/Word of Mouth

Name of Radio/TV station:_____

12. Why did you come to the Summit? (Select all that apply)

☐ Networking
☐ Professional Development
☐ To Learn About Community Issues
☐ To Become Active in Solving Community Problems

13. Do you feel your objectives have been met for attending the Summit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14. Please rate the following aspects of the Summit **(Check one box per category)**:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Speakers				
Location				
Panels				
Relevance (topics)				
Staff/Volunteers				
Luncheon (if applicable)				
Overall Summit				

15. What speakers/panel did you like most and why? _____

16. What speakers/panel did you like least and why? _____

Recommendations for Future Speakers_____

Topics of Interest_____

17. Did you take part in a free screening (ex. HIV/AIDS) at the Summit location? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional Comments:

If you have ideas and additional feedback that you think will be helpful in making the SBGA Summit even better next year please provide the following:

Name: _____

Email: _____

The SGBA Evaluation Team guarantees respondent confidentiality. We will not disclose or use the names of respondents unless the respondent grants us permission to do so. All data will be used in a form that will make it impossible to determine the identity of the individual respondents. The survey responses will not be integrated, analyzed, or reported in any way in which the confidentiality of the survey responses is not absolutely guaranteed.